

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

February 28, 2023

DMHAS BUDGET HEARING

SUBJECT MATTER: Governor's Proposed FY 24-25 Budget for Health Agencies

H.B. No. 6659 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

Good evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Robert J. Rosica, and I am a registered voter in Wethersfield Connecticut. I am here to testify regarding **H.B. No.6659 for the DMHAS Appropriations** budget. I have been a member at Common Ground in East Hartford, since May 2022. Before then, I was staying at home all the time, isolated in my situation. I found Common Ground on the website and since then, I have been doing more things out of the house with peers. I have made many new friends, and currently volunteer in several positions for the clubhouse and now I stand before you testifying for the group.

I have become more outgoing and talkative. Before I was depressed and now, I am happier wanting to get a paid job and go back to school. This nonprofit social club provides me with activities and volunteering opportunities that help me gain new skills instead of being in an isolated situation. It is important to me that social clubs like Common Ground continue to run since they provide important learning experiences for everyone. Without Common Ground, I would not have a place to practice these job skills and help with employment services that will help me gain new employment in the future. Many people need supportive safe housing and increases in services so that people with mental health can get their basic needs met. I had to wait for case management and there's a still a waitlist for services. It's important that nonprofits receive funding recommended by the Alliance of Non-profits so that others can have these helpful resources. Thank you for your time and hearing our testimony.